

[7 August, 2001]

RAJYA SABHA

**International airport status to Srinagar**

1680. SHRI SHARIEF-UD-DIN SHARIQ: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the airports in the country which were declared international airports during 2000-2001;

(b) whether Srinagar Airport was proposed to be given the status of international airport; if so, the progress made in this regard;

(c) whether Government would declare Srinagar Airport as an international airport; if so, by when; and

(d) by when Kargil Airport would become operational?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV):

(a) During the year 2000-2001 the airports at Ahmedabad, Amritsar, Bangalore, Goa, Guwahati, Hyderabad and the new airport at Nedumbassery (Cochin) were declared as international airports.

(b) and (c) There are no plans at present to declare any more airports as international airports.

(d) Kargil Airport will become suitable for operations by September, 2001. Actual civil operation will depend upon the airline operators, and the commercial viability and availability of suitable aircraft.

**Finalisation of New Civil Aviation Policy**

1681. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the New Civil Aviation Policy is yet to be finalised inspite of the fact that the announcement has been made over a year ago;

(b) whether the delay in announcing this policy is affecting the growth of the industry; and

(c) if so, what action Government are taking in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) to (c) The draft Civil Aviation Policy is being finalised in consultation with various Ministries and Departments etc.